propose to take steps to instal Periar's statue in New Delhi at the earliest so that the citizens of the Capital may have the opportunity of Posthumously honouring this great son of India; and

(c) if so, by when steps would be taken to execute this project?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Proposals for installation of statues in the Capital are normally to be initiated by organisations interested in the matter and are ready to bear the cost of the work. The organisations are also required to obtain clearance from the local bodies and other appropriate authorities.

Increase in the prices of groundnut oil

555. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the **percentage** of rise n the prices of **groundnut** oil since the presentation of 1990-91 Budget and by what percentage the price is further anticipated to rise during the next six months or so stating the reasons for continuous rise in its price;

(b) whether Government propose for a phased increase in the edible oil prices through P.D.S.; if so, what are the deteiis thereof stating the percentage by which the prices of edible oils are likely to be raised within the next six months and its over-all effect on the consumer particularly on the weaker saction of society;

(c) what is the extent of rise in the subsidy consequent on the rise in the prices of edible oils distributed through PDS; and

(d) the manner in which Government prospose to contain the continuous rise in the prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The percentage increase as on 4.8.90 in the prices of Groundnut oil (Bombay) since the presentation of Budget for 1990-91 is around 20%. The main reason for continuous rise in prices of groundnut oil is attributable to set back in the production of groundnut this year.

(b) Presently there is no proposal for a phased increase in the edible oil prices through Public Distribution System.

(c) There is no subsidy on account of allocation of edible oils under Public Distribution System.

(d) Measures taken by the Government to contain the continuous rise in prices of edible oils broadly include—steps to increase production of essential commodities like edible oils which are in short supply, strengthening of P.D.S., monitoring of prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supply through imports wherever necessary.

Loss due to floods in Rajasthan

556. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) what is the estimated loss of life, property and crop caused by the recent floods in Rajasthan;

(b) what is the estimated number of people affected by the floods;

(c) what is the nature and quantum of the Central assistance given to the State Government to provide relief to the affected persons and to rehabilitate them; and

(d) whether any Central team has visited the State to assess the losses and if not, the reasons therefor?